



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

# RAPID RIVER NEWS

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September 26 2016

## Election Board Notices

## Announcement of General Election

Dates and Events

## Constitutional Changes to Election

New Council Districts

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Fall Membership Meeting October 8

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Fall Fire and Teachings October 6-8

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## ***A NOTICE FROM HUMAN RESOURCES***

LRBOI Tribal Government has opportunities for temporary work assignments in both its Member's Assistance Department and Human Resources Department. Persons that have intermediate computer skills and office experience are sought to fill these temporary assignments. Positions will receive training once selected.

Please be aware that other departments may exercise the option to hire a temporary employee as needed, and will review the applications on file from those seeking a temporary appointment. Temporary appointments can work up to 29 hours per week. If you are interested, please file an application with Human Resources. You can obtain an application by contacting HR at (231) 398-6859, or via email to [jobs@lrboi-nsn.gov](mailto:jobs@lrboi-nsn.gov).

## NO YARD SALE

## DURING FALL

## MEMBERSHIP

## MEETING

**Auction planned for items at the Eastlake Property - Date to be announced**

Hey, haven't I read this already?

Some of it sure, but there is some new items that may be of interest.

Apologies for now RRN last week, but the Newsletter went out &

Is available online.



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Election Board  
**2608 Government Center Drive**  
**Manistee, MI 49660**  
Phone (231) 723-8288

## Announcement of General Election

**Date of Election :** April 28, 2017

**Offices to be Elected:** Office of Tribal Council- Nine County District (two seats)  
Office of Tribal Council- At Large District (one seat)  
Office of Tribal Council - Outlying (two seat)  
Office of Election Board- (three seats)  
Office of Appellate Judge- (one seat)

### **Procedures for Establishing Candidacy**

*For Candidates for the Office of Tribal Council-Nine County District, At-Large and Outlying District.* To run for the Office of Tribal Council in the Nine County District, At-Large District and Outlying district, a Tribal Member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar below.

*For Candidates for the Office of Election Board.* To run for the Election Board, a Tribal Member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar below.

*For Candidates for the Office of Appellate Judge.* To run for the Office of Appellate Judge, a Tribal Member must obtain, complete, and submit a Declaration of Candidacy packet during the period listed in the Election Calendar below.

### **Election Calendar**

Declaration of Candidacy Packets available .....	October 3, 2016
Declaration of Candidacy Packets due .....	October 28, 2016
Background Checks Certified .....	November 30, 2016
Slate of Candidates certified .....	December 12, 2016
Last day to withdraw candidacy .....	December 19, 2016
Ballots mailed out for Primary Election .....	January 13, 2017
Ballots due and Primary Election Day .....	February 10, 2017
Deadline for Primary election recounts, disputes, challenges .....	February 17, 2017
Deadline for Withdrawal of Candidate after Primary Election .....	February 27, 2017
Ballots mailed out for General Election .....	March 24, 2017
Ballots due and General Election Day .....	April 28, 2017

Deadline for General Election recounts, disputes, challenges .....May 5, 2017  
Deadline for General Election campaign financial report ..... May 5, 2017

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The Primary Election will be conducted by secret mail ballot. The homes of registered voters shall be designated as polls for voting purposes. You must be a registered voter with current mailing information on file with the Enrollment Department to receive a ballot. The ballot counting will be held in the Lodge at the Government Center, 2608 Government Center Drive, Manistee, MI. Ballot counting process begins at 12:00 .pm.

The General Election will be conducted by secret mail ballot and central polling place. The homes of registered voters shall be designated as polls for voting purposes. You must be a registered voter with current mailing information on file with the Enrollment Department to receive a ballot. The central polling place will be located in the Lodge at the Government Center, 2608 Government Center Drive, Manistee, MI. The hours for the polling place will be 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. The ballot counting will also take place in the Lodge and the counting process begins at 12:00 p.m.

A copy of the Election Board Office Hours has been included in this mailing and will be from October 3, 2016 through October 28, 2016.

If a candidate wishes to have their photograph and biography included in the Special Election Newsletter, the candidate must include the photograph and biography in their candidate packet.

The Tribal Constitution has recently been amended by a vote of the Membership. The Election Board will be posting revisions to the Chapter 3 and 4 Election Board Regulations to reflect the Constitutional amendments. If enacted, these changes to Chapter 3 and 4 will be in effect for this election.

One of the Constitutional changes is that the Election Board is required to perform background checks for the positions of Tribal Council, Tribal Ogema, and Tribal Judiciary. The background check paperwork must be filled out and turned in with your Declaration of Candidate Packet along with a fee to cover the cost of the background check service. The Election Board is researching check services and the amount of the fee will be included in the Candidate Packets. Only cash and money orders will be accepted.

**Please note:** In accordance with the Election Board Regulations Chapter 2, section 19d): "If Voter Registration Form is not received by the Election Board 60 calendar days before an election, the eligible voter will not be registered to vote in that election."

**Last day to register to vote for the Primary Election is  
December 13, 2016. Last day to register to vote for the  
General Election is February 27, 2017.**

The Election Board is not responsible for the failure of an Eligible Voter to complete the registration requirements by the prescribed deadlines.

Registered Voters are responsible for maintaining their current physical/ mailing address with the Enrollment Department. Ballots will be mailed to the address on file in the Enrollment Department.



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Manistee, MI 49660  
Phone (231) 723-8288

## ELECTION BOARD

Recent amendments to the Tribal Constitution change the composition of the Tribal Council. Prior to these amendments, the Tribal Council seats were allocated as follows:

- Six of the members were elected by Tribal Members residing in the Nine-County area. The Nine-County area is made up of Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa, and Wexford Counties.
- Two of the members were elected by all of the Members of the Tribe. These Council seats are known as "At-large" seats.
- One of the members was elected by Tribal Members living outside the Nine-County area. This seat is known as the "Outlying" seat.

The proposed amendment would change the composition of the Tribal Council as follows:

- Four of the Council seats will be elected by Tribal Members residing in the Nine-County area.
- One of the Council seats will be At-Large.
- Four of the Council seats will be elected by Tribal Members residing in the Outlying area.

Another way to say this is that two Nine-County seats are being changed to Outlying seats, and one At-Large seat is being changed to an Outlying seat.

The Election Board is charged with implementing this change. This includes determining when the seats should be switched, and in what order.

In rules that are being posted this month, the Election Board has decided to make the changes in two steps. First, one Nine-County seat that is up for election will be switched to an Outlying seat in the 2017 General Election. Then, one Nine-County seat and one At-Large seat that are up in the 2019 General Election will be switched to Outlying seats. The following graphic shows how this will work:

Tribal Council Seats Up for Vote in 2017 Election		
Current	Change	New
3 Nine-County seats	(-1)	2 Nine-County seats
1 At-Large seat	0	1 At-Large seat
1 Outlying seat	+1	2 Outlying seats

Tribal Council Seats Up for Vote in 2019 Election		
Current	Change	New
3 Nine-County seats	(-1)	2 Nine-County seats
1 At-Large seat	(-1)	0 At-Large seats
0 Outlying seats	+2	2 Outlying seats

The Election Board's main reason for implementing the change in this way is so that there will be two Nine-County seats and two Outlying seats up in each future election. If the At-Large seat was switched to Outlying in 2017, then there would be three Outlying seats up in one election and one Outlying seat up in the next election, with this pattern repeating in future elections. Instead, there will be two Nine-County seats and two Outlying seats up in each future election. The lone At-Large seat would be up once every other election, just as the lone Outlying seat is now. The following graphic illustrates the new pattern:

Tribal Council Seats Up for Vote in 2021 Election		
2 Nine-County seats		
1 At-Large seat		
2 Outlying seats		
Tribal Council Seats Up for Vote in 2023 Election		
2 Nine-County seats		
0 At-Large seat		
2 Outlying seats		
Tribal Council Seats Up for Vote in 2025 Election		
2 Nine-County seats		
1 At-Large seat		
2 Outlying seats		
Tribal Council Seats Up for Vote in 2027 Election		
2 Nine-County seats		
0 At-Large seat		
2 Outlying seats		

# October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 10-1 – Manistee 11-2 – Muskegon	4 11-2 – Manistee	5	6 11-2 – Manistee	7	8
9	10 10-1 – Manistee	11	12	13 11-2 – Manistee	14 11-2 – Manistee 11-2 – Muskegon	15
16	17 10-2 – Manistee 11-2 – Muskegon	18	19	20 11-2 – Manistee	21 11-2 – Muskegon	22
23	24 11-2 – Manistee	25 11-2 – Muskegon	26	27 11-2 – Manistee	28 11-5 – Manistee 11-2 – Muskegon	29
30	31					

## EVENTS

## **MANISTEE COUNTY BROADBAND INITIATIVE: Working to bring connectivity to all of Manistee County**

Hello! Please take the survey. <http://connectmycommunity.org/manistee-county/>

This project is a partnership between the Alliance for Economic Success and Michigan Connect. It will assess the current status of broadband access, adoption, and use in our area so that we can develop a Broadband Technology Action Plan to improve the quality of life and economic potential across Manistee County. The answers to a survey we hope you, and many others, will take will identify the current need for improved internet access so that we can communicate that to providers. It is simple supply and demand: we show demand they supply!

So please follow the above link and take the survey!

Anishinaabemdaa simply means “Let’s speak our language, Anishinaabemowin”. This face book page is related to the website. We thought that we would try to do this on face book. Many indigenous people are on face book from all over North America. Many use the language whenever they can. We want to post phrases, teachings, stories, short lessons and a suggestion post, so if there is anything specific that you wish to learn, just let us know. We will also help out with the spelling of our language.

This face book page is designed to be of service to the public. Our website serves many thousands of people here in North America and we do get traffic from other parts of the world. Many schools, colleges and universities use it on a regular basis.



Glitchkesh (Northern White Cedar)

# Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Wetlands Fact Sheet #1 Wetlands Overview



Manomin (Wild Rice)

- In general, wetlands are areas between upland and aquatic sites, that are covered or saturated with water at some point during the growing season <sup>(USFWS 2013)</sup>.
- Wetlands provide food and medicinal remedies, habitat for wildlife and fish, and provide ecosystem services such as water quality mitigation, storm water storage, and groundwater recharge.
- Since European settlement, Northern Lower Michigan has lost a wetland area (387,000 acres) <sup>(MDEQ 2014)</sup> approximately half the size of Rhode Island.
- Wetlands have been removed for purposes including agriculture, commercial and residential development, dredge disposal, and resource extraction <sup>(USEPA 1994)</sup>.
- Approximately 17% of the 1836 Reservation and the State of Michigan are considered wetlands <sup>(MDEQ 2014)</sup>.
- Wetlands within the 1836 Reservation consist of primarily emergent wetlands (wet meadows, marshes) and forested wetlands (floodplain forests, treed swamps) <sup>(ITC 2000)</sup>.
- The following plants are characteristic of wetlands types:

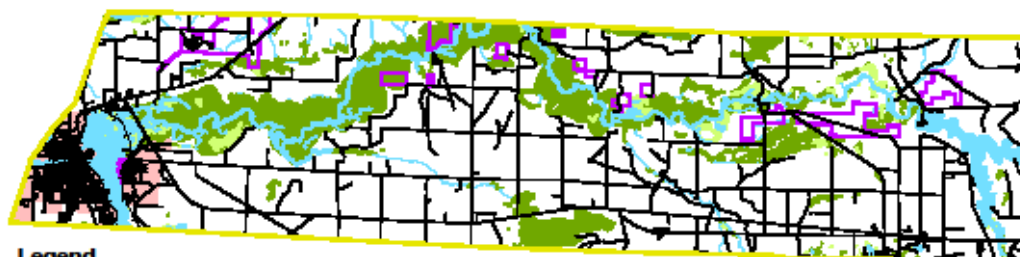
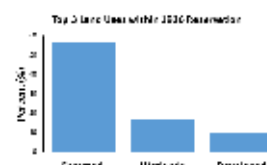
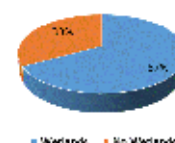
Wet Meadows: Sedges, cattails, bluejoint, and reed canary-grass

Marshes: Cattails, water-plantain, smartweed, and wild-rice

Floodplain forests: Black and green ash, rice cutgrass, and reed canary-grass

Treed swamps: Silver maple, ash, elms, and white cedar <sup>(ITC 2000)</sup>

Percent of Tribal Parcels Consisting of Wetlands



## Legend

- 1836 Exterior Reservation Boundary
- Tribal Parcels
- Roads
- Railroads
- Rivers/Lakes
- Emergent Wetlands
- Forested Wetlands
- City Limits

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles



**Contact Information:**  
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Natural Resources Department  
Tel: 866-723-1594

## **HOUSING DEPARTMENT:**

The Tribally funded Down payment and Closing Cost

Assistance program has been funded for this year, 2016.

Tribal Citizens can receive up to a combined maximum of \$5,000.00. The combined maximum is based on 2.33% for the down payment assistance up to \$3,500 and 1.00% for closing cost assistance up to \$1,500. The assistance is calculated on the total purchase price and the eligibility criteria highlights are as follows.

1. Must be an enrolled member of LRBOI.
2. Must be at least 21 years old.
3. Must not currently own a home/residence.
4. Residence must be the borrower's permanent primary residence.
5. Must not have previously accessed funds under this or any other Tribal program that provides down payment and closing cost assistance.
6. Must be a single family residence.

If you are interested please contact Chad Gehrke in the Housing Department at 231-398-6878 or [cgehrke@lrboi-nsn.gov](mailto:cgehrke@lrboi-nsn.gov).

## **INTERNSHIP and CAREER STUDIES ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Two programs are now available to help LRBOI Tribal Members and LRBOI Descendants acquire skills and knowledge to prepare for their future careers at LRCR.

**What:** Two different work programs are available, an INTERNSHIP PROGRAM and a CAREER STUDIES PROGRAM, with a limited number of positions available in each program.

**Who:** LRBOI Tribal Members and LRBOI Descendants, 18 and older, are eligible to apply.

**When:** 12 week paid program begins after approval process.

**Where:** there are TEMP positions open in both Members Assistance and HR. We are looking for Administrative Assistant temporary assignees right now. Up to 29 hours per week. Submit application and resume to [jobs@lrboi-nsn.gov](mailto:jobs@lrboi-nsn.gov) Various Departments at Little River Casino Resort.

**How:** Submit application and then undergo interview process to be approved.

### **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

for Tribal Member and Descendant college students, in association with the internal internship programs that are available from their specific colleges.

### **CAREER STUDIES**

PROGRAM – for Tribal Member and Descendant NON-college students. This program is not for college credit, and the process is managed entirely within LRCR.

FOUR positions are available in each program. Eligible applicants Must submit all required documents to be considered.

Applicants must pass all pre-employment screening processes required for all newly hired employees. Application packets are available upon request Contact: Sandy Mezeske, Executive Administrative Assistant Tribal and Organizational Development Department of Little River Casino Resort [sandym@lrcr.com](mailto:sandym@lrcr.com) 1-231-398-4029

# FALL FIRE & TEACHINGS

October 6<sup>th</sup> to October 8th

**These teachings are open to all.**

**Please come with a Good Heart, Good intentions, for a good outcome.**

Location— Fire lodge on the Gathering Grounds

October 6th 2016

6:30 - 8:00 - Sunrise Ceremonies.

All Men and Women Pipe Carriers are welcome to participate.

Water Ceremony and mornings songs.

8:15 - 9:15 - Breakfast - At the Little River Community Center.

9:30 - 11:45 - Why we have seasonal ceremonies. Men and Women teachings in our communities and other communities. The importance of maintaining our Cultural ways and practices.

All invited presenters and participants are encouraged to participate and offer their knowledge.

12:00 noon - Lunch with Little River band Of Ottawa Elders meal pro-gram.

1:30 - 2:30 - Continue from morning teachings.

2:30 - 2:45 break

3:00 - 4:30 - How do we encourage other others to participate in our cultural ways, not just ceremonies, but crafts, gatherings of all kinds.

Closing day offerings and prayers for the people.

October 7th, 2016

6:30 - 8:00 - Sunrise Ceremonies. All Men and Women are welcome to participate.

Water Ceremony and morning songs.

8:15 - 9:15 Breakfast at Community Center

9:30 - 12:00 - The Effect of Boarding Schools on our Anishinabek People. How this has effected us as a Nation and People, the trauma it has caused our people for generations, the teachings of a long long road to acknowledgement and day to day hopeful recovery of our People with Hunter Genia.

12:00 - Lunch

1:30 - ? Continue from morning teachings.

End of this day we will discuss what teaching were helpful and what teachings the people want for the Spring Sacred Fire and Teachings 2017.

Breakfast and Lunch provided at AkiMaadiziwin Community Center

Questions call Wyatt Szpliet at 231 398 6891

## Updated Fish Consumption Guidelines

The Natural Resource Department has updated its fish consumption recommendations for Manistee Lake and Tippy Pond Dam. Fish collected for these recommendations are either commonly consumed by Tribal members or not routinely tested by the State of Michigan. Fish consumption guidelines are based on contaminant trigger levels, for total mercury and PCB, set forth by the Michigan Department of Community Health. Consumption guidelines are protective of the general public, women of childbearing age, and children under 15.

### **Tippy Dam Pond**

Safe eating recommendations <sup>2</sup> :		
Species	General population	Women and children *
Smallmouth Bass	> 18 "	> 18 "
Northern Pike	> 24 "	> 24 "
Walleye	None	None
Black Crappie	None	None
Channel Catfish	None	None

### **Manistee Lake**

Safe eating recommendations <sup>2</sup> :		
Species	General population	Women and children *
Smallmouth Bass	None	> 10 "
Northern Pike	None	All Sizes
Walleye	None	All Sizes
White Sucker	None	All Sizes
Chinook Salmon	None	All Sizes

Consumption Key	
	Do Not Eat
	6 meals/Year
	1 meal/Month
	1 Meal/Week
	No Restrictions

Note: There are no consumption restrictions for fish lengths below recommendations. 1 meal = 8 ounces

\* Women of childbearing age and children under 15. This demographic has an increased health risk from fish contamination

## **Tips for Reducing Contaminant Consumption**

1. Choose smaller fish. Contaminants accumulate over time in muscle tissue (mercury) and fat (PCB's).
2. Trimming fatty areas and grilling/broiling fish can reduce PCB exposure.
3. Reduce consumption of predatory and bottom-feeding fish. These fish typically contain higher levels of contaminants

**For Further Information:**  
**Shaughn Barnett (Water Quality Specialist)**  
**231-398-2192**



# Fall Membership Meeting

## October 8, 2016

Friday October 7, 2016  
7 pm - 9 pm

Ogema  
Meet & Greet

Little River Casino Resort  
Three Fires Conference Center

Saturday October 8, 2016  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Membership Meeting

Little River Casino Resort Event  
Center

## Meeting Agenda

8 a.m. - Registration Begins

Located in the Event Center

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Informational Booths

Hallway - Three Fires Conference

10:00 a.m. Flag Ceremony Honoring the Nations  
Opening of meeting

Event Center

12 p.m. Lunch Served  
Information booths close

Event Center

1 p.m. - Official meeting begins - Quorum Call

Question and Answer Period will follow

*Thank - you for attending and Safe Travel Home*

*Note: Agenda subject to change at Ogema's discretion and if quorum in meeting is reached-*